TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2001 LB 305, 541

This was just a separate process because that bill, because this is already in state law, went to the Appropriations Committee. where it was appropriate to go, because that is a piece of Nebraska law and this is just funding for that piece. So I'm concerned, and this is totally different from the whole LB 305 I'm concerned if we don't, as a state, do more to attract people to teaching that we're going to continue to go in the spiral that we're already in on teacher shortage. had introduced the bill, it would have been for ... the original bill dealt with teachers, period. The Education Committee changed the bill to be teacher subject shortage areas and teacher shortage geographic areas, and also change some of the formulas for...for payback. So when I have that information I will distribute that to the floor. I don't know if we're going to go much further on that particular issue today. I certainly would hope that this would be seen as, to me, a recruitment It's not the same as paying salaries, although it can have the impact for students who are coming right out of school with debt to be able to not have at least their tuition debt. And the tuition is based on UNL's tuition. So this was collaborative effort of a large group of people, including school administrators. The people that came together to work on this particular bill had been working for about two years. were from across the state. They're from teacher training institutions, but also representing teacher associations, the School Board Association and others who have an interest in this particular issue. So there's a lot of ...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...a lot of support for this. It went through the process. It was made part of the budget by the Appropriations Committee and I urge you to keep it in the budget. I think it's a good tool to have in our tool box of ways to address the teacher shortage in Nebraska. I think it's separate, in many ways, from the teacher salary issue, which is a little different and we'll be discussing in LB 305, but this was already debated and passed into law by the state. This is just the funding piece this year in this year's budget. Thank you.